

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6027

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 00459

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATIONS WITH JAPANESE FISHERY OFFICIALS

1. ON FINAL VISIT TO JAPAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION REGFISHATT
DISCUSSED CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION IN JAPANESE FISHERIES
AND STATUS OF 12-MILE TW CLAIMS WITH KAMENAGA, PRESIDENT OF
THE ASSOCIATION.

2. KAMENYAGA INDICATED THAT MOST COMPANIES HAD DIFFICULT
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS DURING 1975. SEVERAL COMPANIES HAD SOLD
ASSETS AND STOCK TO IMPROVE CASH FLOW AND APPEARANCE OF
FINANCIAL STABILITY. KAMENAGA OF VIEW THAT WORST IS OVER AND
SITUATION IS NOW IMPROVING.

3. REGARDING 12-MILE LIMIT KAMQENAGA OF VIEW THAT ACTION
WILL BE SLOW BUT MOVE IS POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE ON DOMESTIC
SCENE. IN REPLY TO QUESTION HE INDICATED THAT AT TIME OF
ORIGINAL PROPOSALS TO GO 12 MILES JAPAN FISHERIES AGENCY
EXPRESSED STRONG VIEW THAT IF LIMITED TO FISHERY JURISDICTION
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GOJ WOULD BE REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE CONTINUED USSR FISHING IN

SUCH ZONE. DECLARATION OF TERRITORIAL SEA TO 12
MILES WOULD ELIMINATE NEED FOR CONSIDERATION OF SOVIET
FISHERIES.

4. IN FINAL VISIT WITH MATSUURA, JAPAN FISHERIES AGENCY,
REGFISHATT INFORMED THAT JAPANESE VOLUNTARY REDUCTION
OF ALASKA POLLOCK CATCH TO 1,000,000 TONS WAS UNILATERAL
ACT FOR CONVERSATION PURPOSES AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED
AN AGREED QUOTA LEVEL FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. MATSUURA INQUIRED IF WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR GOJ TO
RELEASE INFORMATION REGARDING PLANNED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS
IN MAY 1976. REGFIHSATT INDICATED THAT GENERAL STATEMENT
THAT SUCH MEETING PLANNED SHOULD NOT PRESENT USG WITH
PROBLEM.

6. IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH EMBASSY LOS OFFICER JANUARY
9, COUNCILLOR YONEZAWA OF OVERSEAS FISHERIES DIVISION,
FISHERIES AGENCY, SAID THAT AGENCY STUDY OF OTHER NATIONS' ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE REVEALED THAT
IN NO CASE HAD FISHING RIGHTS BEEN DENIED TO TRADITIONAL
FISHERS IN THOSE WATERS. YONEZAWA SAID RUSSIANS HAVE
CLAIMED TWELVE MILE TERRITORIAL SEA SINCE CZARIST TIMES
AND IN MODERN ERA HAVE VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED PROHIBITION
AGAINST FOREIGN STATES' FISHING THEREIN. THEREFORE
USSR WOULD BE UNABLE TO QUARREL WITH SIMILAR JAPANESE
PRESCRIPTION. COVERSELY, IF GOJ WERE TO ESTABLISH
EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE, AGENCY EXPECTS JAPAN WOULD
BE TIED UP IN INTERMINABLE, ACRIMONIOUS NEGOTIATINS
WITH RUSSIANS OVER PERMISSABLE CATCH.

7. FYI. KAMENAGA STATEMENT AS REPORTED IN PARA 3
AND YONEZAWA STATEMENTS ARE FIRST INDICATION OF
FISHERY AGENCY INFLUENCE IN DECISION TO MOVE FOR 12-
MILE TERRITORIAL SEA RATHER THAN FISHERY ZONE. PAST
INQUIRIES THIS SUBJECT HAVE MET CONFUSED AND
EVASIVE REPLIES. END FYI.
HODGSON

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